Whitehall

Brynford House,
HOLYWELL.

June 30th, 1939.

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TO:-

THE URBAN COUNCIL OF HOLYWELL.

Gentlemen,

In presenting my Report for the year 1938, it is gratifying to recall the encouragement by your Council and the self sacrificing enthusiasm of the volunteers headed by Mr. O. Hugh Davies, whereby an efficient Fire Brigade has come into existence in the area, and has already been of great service. One has however to deplore the absence of facilities for swimming. The Council having already a bath, which, at no very great expense could be brought up to the standard of modern requirements, for this health giving exercise. Annual tickets would, one thinks, be eagerly taken up and prove remunerative.

The Ministry has during the year proposed to diminish the number of part time Medical Officers of Health, by the union of various districts under whole-time Officers responsible directly by the County Council.

These intentions are no doubt consonant with the avowed tendency to centralisation in Health services, but will diminish the unbiassed criticism of central administration which sometimes emanates from the part-time Medical Officer, who is necessarily more fully cognisant of the conditions of the area in which lies his or her daily practice.

S E C T I O N " A "

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2,532.
Registrar general's estimate of resident population middle of 1938.	6,515.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938.) according to Rate Books.	1,876.
The Rateable value is ...	£34,673.
The sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£118.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE CHIEF INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA, AND THE EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment has not increased, the chief industries carried on, in and about the area are:-

Messrs. Courtaulds Limited.,
Messrs. Mostyn & Darwen Ironworks.
Messrs. Halkyn Mines Limited.,
Messrs. Grosvenor Chater & Co., Ltd.,
Messrs. Holywell Textile Mills. Limited.,
Messrs. Gwalia Shirt Factory. . .,

I give, for comparison with the whole country extracts from VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, for ENGLAND AND WALES.

Live Birth Rate.	= 15.1 per 1,000 pop;	for England & Wales.
Still Birth Rate.	= 0.60per 1,000 pop:	
Death rate for all causes.	= 11.6.per 1,000 pop:	

For HOLYWELL URBAN as follows:-

		Total.	Male	Fem:	
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate.	120.	63.	57.	Birth rate per 1,000. of the estimated resident population = 18. 7.
	Illegitimate.	2.	0.	2.	
STILL BIRTHS.		3.	1.	2.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still Births. = 24.

	Total.	Male.	Fem:	
DEATHS.	91.	43.	48.	Death rate per 1,000. of the estimated resident population. = 14. 1.

No. 29. puerperal Sepsis.	= 0.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births = 0.
No. 30. Other puerperal cause.	= 0.	
TOTAL.	= 0.	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.:-

		Rate per 1.000. total births.
All infants per 1,000 live births.	= 11.	= 91.6.
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	= 11.	= 91.6.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000. illegitimate live births. ...	= nil.	= nil.
Deaths for CANCER (all ages.)	= 9.	
Deaths from MEASLES.(all ages.)	= 2.	
Deaths from WHOOPING COUGH (all ages.)	= 1.	
Deaths from DIARRHOEA (under 2.yrs of age.	= 0.	

S E C T I O N " B ".

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Sanitary Authority consists of one part time Medical Officer of Health, C.E. Morris M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. London. one full time Sanitary Inspector, D. L. Morgans. B.Sc. one Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Hall.

(a) Laboratory facilities are available at the Pathological Department of the Chester Royal Infirmary.

(b) Ambulance facilities, are entirely lacking.

(c) Nursing in the Home, carried out by one District Nurse. There is much enthusiasm shown by a large class of V.A.D. of the Red Cross Association, which will tend to provide and extension of nursing care in the homes.

(d) Clinics are conducted by the staff of the County Council.

(c) HOSPITALS. One public Hospital which contains no accommodation for normal or serious emergencies in obstetrics. In my opinion it is time that the County Authority provided in this centre where the birth rate is high, suitable hospital accommodation for serious cases. At present much money is expended in transport to Mancot and St. Asaph distant hospitals. Moreover friends and relatives of patients find it difficult to visit especially St: Asaph, because the Railway Journey thither through Rhyl is devious, and expensive, especially the obstetricians of this District have no accommodation for Hospital treatment of their patients when the sudden emergencies, inseparable from this work do unfortunately occur. (2) One voluntary Hospital whence all confinement cases (whatever the emergency) are specifically excluded.

S E C T I O N " C ".

1. (1) Water — No change.

   (2) Drainage. — Consideration of proposed extension to Greenfield.

2. Nil.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation.

   Pail closets converted to water carriage system. ... ... = 5.

   No. of pail closets at end of Year 1938. ... ... = 201.

   No. of Water Closets at end of Year.1938. ... ... =1526. (Appro

   (2) Public Cleansing. - No change.

   (3) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

   Water Supply. No. change.

   Sewerage and Drainage.

   No change. It is anticipated that the proposed scheme for Greenfield will be commenced during the current year.

   Closet Accommodation.

   5. Pail Closets were converted to the Water Carriage system during the year.

   No. of Pail Closets at end of year 1938. (In Greenfield area) = 201.

   No. of Water Closets at end of year 1938. ... ... = 1,526.

Public Cleansing.

No change. the system of controlled tipping is working satisfactorily.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

Particulars of Notices and Inspections during the year ending December 31st, 1938. (Required by statute to be included in the Medical Officer's Report.)

No. of Notices.		Nature.	Result.
Informal.	Formal.		
8.	3.	Notices to provide dustbins.	Dustbins provided.
4.		Nuisances.	Nuisances abated.
18.		Notices to School Managers etc., of Infectious Diseaes.	Suitable action taken.
3.		Notices to destroy unsound food.	Food destroyed.

INSPECTIONS.

Number.	Nature.
107.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses for the purposes of the Housing Acts. and Public Health Acts.
11.	Inspection of Slaughterhouses.
12.	Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds.
165.	Inspections of New Buildings for the purposes of Building Byelaws made under the Public Health Act. 1875.
26.	Inspections made in connection with the notification of Infectious Disease.
11.	Inspection of Bakehouses.
12.	Inspection of Foodshops.
5.	Inspections for the purposes of the Factory Act. 1937. Section (34)

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4. Shops and Offices.

No action was taken uder this head during the year.

5. Camping.

No action was taken under this head during the year.

6. Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken under this head during the year.

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(7) Swimming Pools. Nil.

vide my reference to this matter , at head of the Report.

(8) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No. of Council Houses found to be infested.	= 2.
No. of Council Houses. disinfected.	= 2.
No. of other Houses found to be infected.	= nil.
No. of other Houses disinfested.	= nil.

In bad cases of infestation Hydrocyanic Acid Gas is employed, the work being carried out by a Contractor. In average cases, fumigation together with thorough cleansing appears to meet the case. No system of disinfestation of the belongings of persons prior to removal to Council Houses is in force, except in the case of Slum Clearance Areas. Frequent inspections of Council Houses are carried out and suitable action taken in the case of infested premises.

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4. Schools.

Schools are under the Education Authority and any question of closure is decided by the County Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N " D ".

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under public Health Housing Acts.)	= 107.
	(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose.	= 122.
2.(a)	(1)	No. of Dwelling Houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing consolidated Regulations 1925. and 1932.	= 107.
	(2)	No. of inspections made for this purpose.	= 107.
	(3)	No. of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	= 92.
	(4)	No. of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of thus referred to under the preceeding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	= 15.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

No. of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. ... ... = 15.

3. ACTION UNDER STATURTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9.10. and 16. Housing Act. 1936.

(1) No. of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. ... ... = nil.

(2) No. of Dwelling Houses rendered fit after service of formal Notices.

(a) By Owners. ... ... = nil.

(b) By Local Authority. ... = nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) No. of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ... ... = 2.

(2) No. of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice. ... ...

(a) By Owners. ... ... = 2.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. ... = nil.

(c) Proceedings under Section 11. and 13. of Housing Act. 1936.

(1) No. of Dwelling Houses in respect of which demoliton orders were made. = nil.

(2) No. of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders. = 15.

(d) Proceedings under Section 2. Housing Act. 1936.

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined. = nil.

(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made. = nil.

4. HOUSING ACT. 1936. PART. 4. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) No. of Dwelling Houses overcrowded at end of year. ... ... = 29.

(2) No. of families Dwelling therein. = 30.

(3) No. of persons Dwelling therein. = 160.

(4)(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. = nil.

(c) (1) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. = 1.

(2) No. of persons concerned in such cases. = 8.

One case of overcrowding in Council houses has been relieved, the number of persons concerned being 8.

SECTION "E".

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The Milk supply of the area was maintained at its usual standard throughout the year. Owing to the pressure of work in connection with Air Raid Precautions only occasional inspections could be carried out, but generally no cause for action was found. Representations were made during the year to the County Council as regards the purity of the water supply to their Samll-holdings in the district and improw-ed supplies are now being obtained.

Meat and other Foods.

No. of Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed.		360.	70.	3,500.	700.
Number inspected.		33.	4.	40.	12.

All diseases except Tuberulosis.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
whole carcases condemned.		Nil.		Nil.	
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned.		Nil.		Nil.	
percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.		Nil.		Nil.	

Tuberculosis only.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Whole carcases condmned.		Nil.		Nil.	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.		Nil.		Nil.	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.		Nil.		Nil.	

There are five Slaughterhouses in the Area all licensed. The general standard of cleanliness is good but it has been impossible to exercise as much supervision as one would have liked.

During the year. 139. lbs. of lamb 192. lbs. of Beef. and 35. lbs. of Pork were condemned in shops and stalls etcetera.

(c) The usual samples were taken by the County Constabulary.

S E C T I O N " F ".

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

2. The incidence of pneumonia has been during 1938. notably less than in former years.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria is very promptly treated here and successfully; for only two deaths have occurred out of 81. cases in 4. years. This year two cases were removed to Hospital at a cost to the Council of £4. 15. 9.

Scarlet Fever.

Prompt treatment by serum has been strikingly successful in this Disease, and has apparently converted a condition lasting many weeks, with severe symptoms, and dangerous complications into a slight indisposition lasting in most cases less than ten days, with uncomplicated complete recovery. This is a notable advance in treatment. In my view the necessity for providing Hospital Isolation for Scarlet Fever should progressively diminish.

No artificial immunisation has been conducted.

Notifiable Diseases during the year. 1938.

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	10.	-	-
Diphtheria.	18.	2.	1.
Puerperal pyrexia.	3.	-	-
Pneumonia.	33.	-	11.
Erysipelas.	2.	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	3.	-	-

Age groups of SCARLET FEVER.

Age periods.	Total cases Notified.
Under 2. years.	1.
Under 3. years.	3.
Under. 5. years.	1.
Under 10. years.	4.
Under.15. years.	1.

Age Groups of PNEUMONIA.

Age periods.	Total cases notified.
Under 1. year	1.
Under. 2. years.	2.
Under 10. years.	2.
Under 15. years.	3.
Under 20. years.	2.
Under 35. years.	4.
Under 45. years.	12.
65. years and over.	7.

Age groups of DIPHTHERIA.

Age periods.	Total cases notified.
Under 3. years.	1.
Under 4. years.	1.
Under 5. years.	3.
Under10. years.	3.
Under15. years.	3.
Under20. years.	1.
Under35. years.	4.
Under45. years.	2.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

Table showing number of New Cases and number of deaths from the disease in the area during 1938. Showing also the age at notification and at death.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15. years.			1.	1.				
25. years.	1.	2.			1.	1.		
35. years.	1.	2.			1.			
45. years.		1.						
55. years.	2.	1.			2.			
65.yrs & over.	1.				2.			
TOTALS.	5.	6.	1.	1.	6.	1.		

No Deaths from Tuberculosis in this area, were un-notified.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours obediently

C E Morris

(Medical Officer of Health.)

C. R.
MIN. OF HEALTH
A 28 AUG 1939
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